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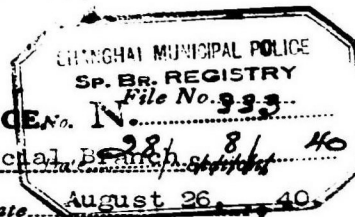
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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

Section I, Special Branch

REPORT

Date August 26, 1940



Subject Shanghai Pawnshop Owners' Association.

Made by D. S. McKeown. Forwarded by D. S. I. Logan.

* Serial 2857-CH

The Shanghai Pawnshop Owners' Association was formerly situated at Woo Ka Loong, Hou Ka Pang, Old North Gate, Nantao. It was originally known as the Pawnshop Trade Guild (典 業 公 所) and was reorganized in 1931 with the approval of the defunct local Tangpu and the Bureau of Social Affairs of the former Shanghai City Government. It consisted of some 80 members who were all proprietors of the local pawnshops.

After the outbreak of the local Sino-Japanese hostilities in 1937, the association was unable to function in Nantao, whereupon a communication office was established in January, 1938 at 250 Burkill Road. Most of the pawnshops situated in Chinese territory were either closed or removed into the Settlement and French Concession. At present, the association claims to have a total membership of 49 shops, twenty of which are located in the French Concession and twenty-nine in the Settlement. A list of pawnshops in the Settlement is attached. This association is not registered with the Police, but has agreed to do so in the near future.

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On August 26, Mr. WOO TSEU DAO
(吴秋涛), proprietor of the Doong Yih
(同益商), Pawnshop, corner of Changsha
and Sinza Roads, and Mr. YUE LONG SI
(俞郎西), Secretary of the Shanghai
Pawnshop Owners' Association, were inter-
viewed at Headquarters, when the following
information was obtained :

Before 1934, the licence fees for
pawnshops were collected by the S.M.C. at a
rate of approximately \$2.00 for every \$1,000
of business done. In collecting the licence
fees, employees were despatched by the S.M.C.
to check the accounts of pawnshops in the
Settlement every month. As a result of
negotiations between the S.M.C. and the
Pawnshop Owners' Association, it was agreed
that with effect from January 1, 1934, the
rate of licence fees be fixed at \$2.00 for
every \$1,000.00 of business done. The
association in question was held responsible
for investigating the business conditions
of its members every year. A report
containing details of business conditions
of each pawnshop in the Settlement was

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submitted by the association to the S.M.C. at the end of September of each year for reference purposes in compiling estimates for the collection of licence fees of the trade.

With effect from July, 1938, the licence fees were increased by 10% (i.e. \$2.20 for every \$1,000.00 of business done), and in July, 1940, the same was further increased by 50%, thus bringing the total rate up to \$3.00 for every \$1,000.00 of business done. The licence fees for autumn quarters have been paid, but the pawnshops concerned are dissatisfied with this increase. On August 12, 1940, a petition was submitted to the S.M.C. in the name of the Pawnshop Owners' Association, requesting the former to reconsider the matter and rescind the decision for the increase of the licence fees. No reply to the petition has yet been received by the association in question. The association is of the opinion that the decision on the part of the S.M.C. to increase the licence fees for pawnshops is tantamount to bringing a heavy burden to bear upon them. Between October,

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1938 and September, 1939, the total amount of business done by the twenty-nine pawnshops in the Settlement was \$6,586,088.42. Taking this sum as a basis for calculation, the total licence fees for a whole year differ in amount as follows :

Period	Rate	Total amount of licence fees
October, 1938 - September, 1939	0.2%	\$13,172.00
October, 1939 - June, 1940	0.22%	\$14,489.00
July, 1940 - June 1941	0.3%	\$19,758.00

According to Messrs. Woo Tseu Dao and Yu Long Si, local pawnshops charge an interest of only 2% from customers. In obtaining loans from local banks to maintain business, the pawnshops concerned are required to pay 1.5% to 1.6% as interest. With the increase of licence fees to 0.3% by the S.M.C., the pawnshops are only in a position to receive a small profit of 0.1% to 0.2% which they consider to be insufficient to maintain their business.

The Shanghai Pawnshop Owners' Association is associated with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, 59 Hongkong Road.

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It consists of only large pawnshops known as "Taung T'ien" (富店) and excludes small pawnshops known as "Ah Deu T'ien" (押頭店). The Chinese character "Taung" (富) represents a large pawnshop, while "Ah" (押) denotes a small pawnshop. Both are licenced by the S.M.C. There are some 600 small pawnshops in Shanghai, 312 of which are in the Settlement, according to the Shanghai Pawnshop (large) Owners' Association.

The difference between a large pawnshop and a small pawnshop is that goods are deposited with the former for a maximum of 12 months at an interests of 2%, while with a small pawnshop, goods are deposited for a maximum period of 6 months at a higher rate of interests.

M. Brown
D. S.

D. C. (Special Branch).

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List of pawnshops in the Settlement

(Members of the Pawnshop Owners' Association).

<u>Name of pawnshop</u>	<u>Address</u>
Kiu Kong (久康)	Carter Road near Avenue Road.
Yuen Lai (源来)	No.480 Foochow Road.
Hung Tsi (宏濟)	No.113 North Shanse Road.
Yah Chong (洽昌)	corner of Chefoo and Kweichow Roads.
Dong Yih (同益)	No.173 Changsha Road.
Tsi Tai (濟泰)	No.560 Medhurst Road.
Hung Shing (鴻興)	No.20 Hupeh Road.
Yue Chong (裕昌)	No.889 Chengtu Road.
Van Tsi (萬濟)	No.64 Avenue Road.
Dong Sung (同生)	No.780 Newchwang Road.
Gee Chong (乾昌)	No.398 Sinza Road.
Zay Chong (萃昌)	No.40 Peiho Road.
Tsi Hung (濟宏)	corner of Ferry and Robison Roads.
Yuen Lee (元利)	No.203 Wuting Road.
Dong Yih (同益)	No.29 Swatow Road.
Yung Ning (永寧)	No.22 South Chengtu Road.
Tsing Kong (香康)	No.74 Yunnan Road.
Nyi Foong (義望)	corner of Peking and Fokien Roads.
Yuen Chong (源昌)	No.174 North Shanse Road.
Kiu Dah (久大)	Chungking near Avenue Edward VII.
Gee Heng (乾亨)	No.69 Tiendang Road.
Hou Yue (厚緣)	No.140 North Chekiang Road.
Pao Chong (寶錫)	No.409 Weihaiwei Road.
Zung Dah (順大)	No.104 Taku Road.
Hung Zung (鴻叻)	No.409 Myburgh Road.
Heng Yih (恆益)	No.588 Boone Road.
Nyi Moo (義和)	No.1030 Canton Road.
Zay Kong (瑞康)	corner of Bankell and Canton Roads.
Dong Chong (同昌)	No.274 Avenue Road.

Memorandum.

A. B. L.
FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,

To R.W. Yorke, Esq.

Shanghai, August 24 19340

Dear Reggie,

We would like to know to what extent the Shanghai Pawnbrokers' Association of 250 Burkill Road (2nd. Floor) represents the pawnbroking trade in the Settlement. There are ~~1~~ 312 small shops and 32 large shops licensed. Have you any information?

Yours

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